

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service

FIRE CHIEF'S GENERAL ORDER

NUMBER: 05-04

March 2, 2005

TO: All MCFRS Personnel

FROM: Fire Chief Thomas W. Carr, Jr.



SUBJECT: Plymovent Safety Guidelines and Operations

Many of the Fire and Rescue stations in Montgomery County have a vehicle exhaust extraction system installed (plymovent). It is of paramount importance that the system be used at all times and personnel safely operate the system to maximize the health benefits of the plymovent system.

HEALTH BENEFITS OF Vehicle Exhaust Extraction Systems

Studies have proven that vehicle exhaust emissions are a health hazard. For over a decade the world health community has been researching the health effects of vehicle exhaust emissions produced by internal combustion engines.

The conclusion is that short and long term exposure to diesel, gas and CNG (compressed natural gas) can cause cancer in humans.

The exhaust from internal combustion engines, including diesel and gasoline powered engines, contains over 100 individual hazardous chemical components that when combined, can result in as many as 10,000 chemical compounds. A large majority of these compounds are today listed by state and federal regulatory agencies as being cancer causing or suspected carcinogens.

Therefore, the use of the vehicle exhaust extraction system in your station is mandatory. The plymovent system or its equivalent must be properly attached to the exhaust pipe of the apparatus for the system to operate safely and correctly.

SAFETY AND OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

Included in this correspondence are safety and operational guidelines for the plymovent exhaust extraction systems.

- 1) **ensure that the hose and all the attachments are in proper working condition.**
- 2) **the exhaust hose must be attached to the exhaust pipe when the unit(s) is in the station. The unit must not be idled or the rpm's increased while the unit is running stationary in the station. The plymovent system is not intended to be used for the purpose of checking the apparatus while it is running inside. After the initial start up of the unit, move the unit slowly outside to disengage the exhaust hose from the tailpipe and to complete your apparatus check out.**
- 3) **attach the exhaust hose to the tailpipe of the apparatus as it crosses past the overhead door threshold when returning to the station. The unit must first come to a complete stop. The exhaust hose must be attached. Once it is attached, the unit may proceed to pull in or back into the station with the appropriate back up personnel in place.**
- 4) **immediately report any defects or operational problems to the plymovent system or the vehicle exhaust extraction system.**

The vehicle exhaust extraction systems provide a high degree of safety and health benefit to the personnel and the public when they are properly working and used correctly.

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